

NEWSRelease

Bureau of Land Management • BIFZ

28910 Hwy 20 West • Hines, Oregon 97738 • <http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/burns>
Burns Interagency Fire Zone • <http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/burns/fire>

Contact: Tara Martinak (541) 573-4400 • Release No. OR-020-08-21 • July 11, 2008

BLM
Burns District Office

BIFZ CAMP CREWS HEAD TO CALIFORNIA WILDFIRES

HINES, Oregon – Oregon firefighting resources are once again on the move to California to battle recent wildfires. Earlier this summer, the Burns Interagency Fire Zone (BIFZ) deployed several agency and contract engines and overhead resource personnel to the Golden State. Today, two 12-person Camp Crews – now known as Crew-6022 and Crew-6023 – from Harney County were assigned.

The California mission is the first for Camp Crews from Burns this year. In previous years, BIFZ sent crews to fire camps in Oregon, Nevada, California, Washington, and as far east as South Dakota. The Camp Crews dispatched today will serve the Cub wildfire complex, near Chester, California, located just east of Susanville. The Cub Complex started on June 21 in the Lassen National Forest and is approaching 12,000 acres.

Each Camp Crew, targeted at providing employment opportunities for our community's youth, is made up of a crew boss, crew boss trainee, and 10 crew members. Camp Crews help set up and take down fire camp, load and unload supplies, deliver materials, coordinate camp needs and provide clean-up services and minor maintenance.

Burns Interagency Communication Center Manager Jonathan Manski said, "Sending Camp Crews off-District and even out of state is a win-win situation. We're contributing positively to the national fire situation and providing a positive work experience for our community's youth."

According to the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection over fourteen hundred fires have been contained in that state this year due to the endless efforts of firefighters throughout the nation. Though California continues to be a nationwide priority, the BIFZ is gearing up for local fire activity and isn't letting go of every engine, helicopter, or hand crew for the time being. Manski said, "We always provide resources to other states whenever we have them available. With our local fire season just around the corner, we have to be prepared."

Fire danger on the BIFZ is HIGH and the Industrial Fire Precaution Level (IFPL) is one. The IFPL is expected to rise to two early next week.

For more information, call the Burns Interagency Communication Center at (541) 573-4545.

